

average lifespan in sub-Saharan Africa. Congratulations to all of you. Africa needs more Botswanas, and America is determined to support all those who would follow your lead.

Today I'm pleased to announce our intent to establish Radio Democracy for Africa, a Voice of America service aimed directly at encouraging progress toward freedom and democracy, respect for human rights, and an independent and objective media. I thank Congressman Royce in particular for his leadership in promoting this program, as well as the other Members of our congressional delegation.

Botswana's success was built by its people and by the dedicated leaders they chose. President Masire, I am deeply honored to be among those here as you leave your distinguished tenure. As Vice President and Finance Minister, you sparked the engine of an economic miracle by establishing the first joint ventures for mining diamonds. You created Botswana's sound fiscal and monetary regimes. You negotiated Botswana's access to European markets. You earned the trust of your fellow citizens. President, you've ensured that human rights and the rule of law could make their home in Botswana. Your stand against apartheid and your support of the ANC gave hope to all who yearned for dignity and equality in South Africa. You have been a leader in conserving wildlife. You've sent your troops on missions of peace in Somalia, Rwanda, and Mozambique. And as a founding member and host to the SADC Secretariat, you have helped bring countries in this region closer together and create new opportunities for your people. Now, as you step down from public office after 18 years of leadership, you're ensuring the peaceful transfer of power that has come to characterize this land.

Mr. President, on behalf of all Americans, I salute you and your achievements. I would say you have earned the right to go back to your cattle ranch. [*Laughter*]

The United States has been very proud to support Botswana's progress. Botswana's success led to the bittersweet closing of our AID and Peace Corps programs. But though these development programs have finished, their legacy endures. Lady Obebile, I know you taught many Peace Corps volunteers their

first words in Setswana. You helped to ensure that countless young Americans came home with a lifelong love for your country and this continent.

Now we're building in that spirit of co-operation to renew our partnership for the future, based on common values, common vision, and mutual respect. Together we can help all men and women in Africa secure the freedom that is their birthright. We can deepen our investment in trade and bring the prosperity to all citizens. We can work together to deter conflicts before they explode into crises. And together, we can protect this fragile Earth for future generations.

Visitors to Botswana will never forget the beauty of your environment. Tomorrow Hillary and I will have the great pleasure of visiting Chobe ourselves. You have been blessed with abundant resources, but none of those is more precious than your people. Because of them, the future looks bright for Botswana and for the region as well.

So, Mr. President, on behalf of all Americans, thank you again for the extraordinary example you and the people of Botswana have set. I wish you all the best. America is proud to be Botswana's partner and friend.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:10 p.m. on the State House Lawn. In his remarks, he referred to President Ketumile Masire and his wife, Lady Obebile, Vice President Festus Mogae and his wife, Barbara, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mompoti Merafhe of Botswana. The President also referred to the African National Congress (ANC) and the South African Development Community (SADC).

## **Exchange With Reporters in Kasane, Botswana**

*March 30, 1998*

### **Botswana National Parks**

**The President.** I learned today that 17 percent of this country is in national parks and national preserves. They've done a great job of protecting their wildlife.

### **Russian Elections**

**Q.** TASS is quoting Yeltsin as saying he's not going to be part of the 2000 campaign, and he's going to support Chernomyrdin.

**The President.** Chernomyrdin?

**Q.** Yes.

**The President.** That's interesting.

### **President's Safari**

**Q.** What have you seen today, sir?

**The President.** Well, we've seen probably 20 or 30 different kinds of birds—fascinating ones—including some eagles I had never seen before and some storks I had never seen before and obviously the vultures and then a lot of the smaller, very beautiful birds, like these rollers. There you've got a baboon, right there, and is that an impala with it? An impala, a baboon, and three elephants right here where we're standing.

We saw a water buffalo—I think you saw it also—that had been wounded, apparently, by a lion. We saw the horns of a kudu and the skull, all that remained of what apparently was a lion kill up the road here, and the vultures were still kind of hanging around it.

It's amazing. It's been an amazing day.

**Q.** Any warthogs? We saw some.

**The President.** No.

**Hillary Clinton.** We saw hippos.

**The President.** We saw a lot of hippos.

**Mrs. Clinton.** Crocodiles.

**Q.** Did you check out the stars last night?

**The President.** It was amazing, wasn't it? The stars were amazing.

**Mrs. Clinton.** We saw the lions, too.

**Q.** Oh, you didn't see the lions.

**Mrs. Clinton.** We did, Sam [Sam Donaldson, ABC News]. We did.

**Q.** You saw a lion?

**Mrs. Clinton.** Yes, we saw a mother lion and four cubs.

**The President.** Oh, yes. They were up underneath a tree.

**Mrs. Clinton.** One of the lions was in the tree.

**The President.** You could barely see them, and the mother lion was on her back, playing with the kids.

**Q.** I would have killed for that. [Laughter]

**The President.** It was great. At one point, she even had one of her—one of the cubs'

tail in her mouth. They were playing with it back and forth.

**Q.** Can a Democratic President admire an elephant?

**The President.** Yes, and I like to see them concentrated here. [Laughter]

**Q.** I set you up there.

**The President.** Actually, I was kind of jealous that the Republicans had appropriated such a nice animal as their symbol. [Laughter] I think they're fascinating, these elephants are.

**Q.** At the restaurant last night, did you check out any of the zebra or crocodile?

**The President.** I tried it all.

**Q.** Those elephants produce more dung than any other animals. [Laughter]

**The President.** If you write that, make sure you say he did it, not me.

**Q.** But make sure you say the President was smiling.

**Q.** Mrs. Clinton, have you enjoyed it?

**Mrs. Clinton.** Oh, very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:55 a.m. at Chobe National Game Park. In his remarks, he referred to former Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin of Russia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

### **Statement on Legislation Proposing a Uniform Standard Blood-Alcohol Level**

*March 30, 1998*

Although my trip to Africa precludes me from joining Congresswoman Nita Lowey, Congressman Charles Canady, and others gathered in the Roosevelt Room, I want to state once more my strong support for legislation to put the brakes on drunk driving.

Setting a uniform limit for impaired driving at .08 blood alcohol content (BAC) will help us crack down on drunk driving nationwide. At a time when crime all across America is going down, we still lose an American to drunk driving every 30 minutes—every half hour a family is shattered, a child, a parent, a neighbor is lost forever.

By establishing a strong but sensible limit on blood alcohol content, we could save as many as 600 lives a year. And a uniform drunk driving standard would still allow